



IG Newsletter

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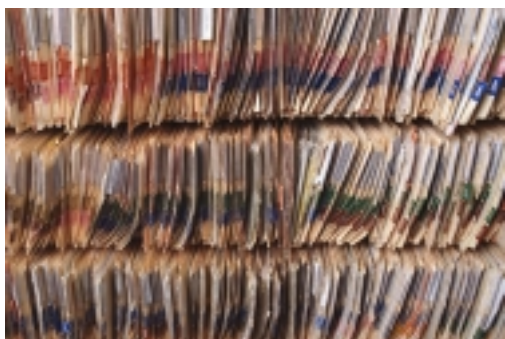
JULY, 2000

A Special Note to Commanders

By LTC JAMES KANZENBACH

As you can see, we have modified the format of the Quarterly IG Newsletter. We have changed from the info paper style to one based more on specific scenarios. Hopefully, this new format will have more relevance to your daily activities and be more useful to you. The scenarios you'll read in this issue are based on actual cases we've worked here at Ft Polk.

As always, we openly solicit input from you, the commander. Let us know if there is a topic or subject you'd like us to cover in future issues. This newsletter is designed primarily for the Company/Troop/Battery Command team, but please distribute freely to subordinate leaders and soldiers.



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What does the regulation say about bonding time and no field duty after maternity leave?

By SFC MATT WEEGENS

According to AR 220-1, a female soldier is not available for deployment for up to 4 months after the birth of the child. This is only for deployment and does not apply to field exercises or normal duty.

Part of the 4 months consists of the 42 days convalescent leave when the mother is allowed to be at home full-time with the child to recover from having the child. The other 78 days are to ensure that the mother and child are not separated during the first 4 months by a deployment. This applies to a single or married natural parent or person who adopts a child. In a military couple, one of the couple is allowed to be non-deployable for the first 4 months after the adopted child is in the home.

The unit grants convalescent leave time for 42 days IAW AR 600-8-10, para 5-3. The soldier may return to duty earlier if she wishes to do so or if the commander determines that the soldier's absence will have an adverse affect on the unit's mission, and orders the soldier back sooner. A Cdr may require early return of a soldier for readiness or mission needs. A military health authority must determine that such action is medically acceptable.

Female soldiers who meet the Army weight control standards and become pregnant will be exempt from the standards for the duration of pregnancy plus 6 months following pregnancy termination. This information was last published in an ALARACT message 251912Z, Mar 96, Post Partum Soldiers and the Physical Fitness and Weight Control Program.

Soldiers returning from having a child are not required to take a for record physical fitness test for 180 days after the termination of the pregnancy. The soldier should use the time to prepare herself for the APFT.

Unless otherwise specified in a temporary or permanent profile, the soldier should be able to complete all other required military training. If the soldier feels that she is unable to complete or do a training event due to a physical condition she should seek medical treatment.

Can the CDR keep me from going on leave because I am flagged? Oh, by the way I'm also pending a chapter 14. I want to take block leave like everyone else.

By SFC GLORIA KRAUKLIS

Yes, the CDR can deny leave based on particular circumstances.

The Army leave policies are an important command requirement and care must be taken to prevent misuse of leave. The frequent use of leave will make a positive contribution to morale, level of performance and career motivation.

Commanders often grant a type of leave called block leave, which is a specified period, in which all soldiers may request leave. It is granted per local command policy when consistent with military requirements and is a chargeable leave period.

The unit commander is the approval authority for all ordinary leaves and passes under normal circumstances requested within a unit.

Leave is a privilege not a favorable action.

Soldiers who are pending UCMJ action, chapters or other personnel actions may be denied leave by the commander for various reasons.

Soldiers who are pending chapters should remain available at all times for processing of their chapter request. The processing time for separations when the Notification Procedure is used normally will not exceed 15 working days. Time will be measured from the date the soldier acknowledges receipt of the notification of the proposed separation to the date the separation authority directs separation. (AR 635-200, para 1-7)

Bottom line, the unit commander is the approval authority for ordinary leave under normal circumstances.

Reference. AR 600-8-10, Leaves and Passes.

DISCLAIMER:

The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the Department. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or of the command, but wherever possible, are supported by referenced Army regulations, policies or procedures.

Does the commander still get 200 promotion points on the new promotion point worksheet? What can the NCO do to influence the total points? How does he/she go about determining current points standing?

By SFC MARTHA McCLELAND

No to the first question. Under the new promotion worksheet DA Form 3355, 1 Jun 00, the commander no longer has 200 points; it has changed to 150 points. The duty performance evaluation has five categories: Competence, (proficient, knowledgeable, communicates effectively), Military Bearing (role model, appearance, confidence) Leadership (motivates soldiers, sets standards, mission, concern), Training (individual and team, shares knowledge and experience, teaching), Responsibility and Accountability (equipment, facilities, safety, conservation). Commanders award a maximum of 30 points on each of these categories.

This evaluation is dependent upon the whole soldier concept. Soldiers influence the total points by striving to obtain the maximum points on the following areas:

Military Training (maximum 100 points) - APFT, and weapons' qualification.

Duty Performance (maximum 150 points) Commander evaluates on a scale of 1-30 points on each of the five areas evaluated.

Administrative Points (maximum of 400 points) this includes (100) points for awards, decorations, and achievements; military education (200 maximum); and civilian education (100 maximum)

Promotion Board (maximum of 150 points).

Commanders are required to post the C10 (recommended list for promotion of enlisted personnel) on the unit bulletin board for soldiers to review. Soldiers are responsible to report promotion point discrepancies to the commander and S1. Soldiers must be prepared to document all promotion-related requests.

For more information on the conversion process and the revised AR 600-8-19, Enlisted Promotions and Reductions, visit the Top questions regarding the conversion process and the revised AR 600-8-19 at www.perscom.army.mil.

STARS - Do I have to attend the STARS program?

By MRS. NANCY MANTOOTH

IAW the MOI - Soldiers, Training, Ability, Readiness, and Spirit (STARS) Parent Readiness program, dated 29 Oct 98, STARS is designed to assist pregnant soldiers prepare for and recover from their delivery (5a). All pregnant soldiers who have been cleared by their OB care provider will attend STARS classes (7d(2)). Once enrolled, soldiers will be required to attend STARS daily until 90 days postpartum (excluding their 42-day convalescent leave) (7h(1)).

The STARS staff members assigned to BJACH conduct the STARS program. Aerobics instructors are certified in pregnancy aerobics and medical personnel teach both prenatal and postpartum classes. Nutrition, fitness, and health education are stressed. Unit commanders are responsible for ensuring their pregnant soldiers enroll and attend classes daily.

Can my commander require me to have my tattoo removed?

By MAJ MICHAEL SIMPSON

It depends. New Army policy outlines prohibited tattoos. DA Message 310609Z DEC 98, Subject: Administrative Guidance to Army Tattoo Policy IAW AR 670-1 states that "tattoos or brands on the face, neck, or head are prohibited. Tattoos on other areas of the body that are prejudicial to good order and discipline are prohibited. Additionally, any type of tattoo or brand visible while wearing a Class A uniform and detracts from a soldierly appearance is prohibited." Also, tattoos or brands that show an allegiance to extremist organizations, are indecent, unreasonably large or excessive in number are in violation of Army policy.

If a prohibited tattoo is found, the commander should counsel the soldier on the Army tattoo policy and explain that violating the policy could result in adverse administrative action and/or separation. Ask if the soldier is willing to have it removed. Get with the local medical treatment facility to determine if it can be removed at government expense. If the soldier will not have it removed, the commander should consider the appropriate administrative action.

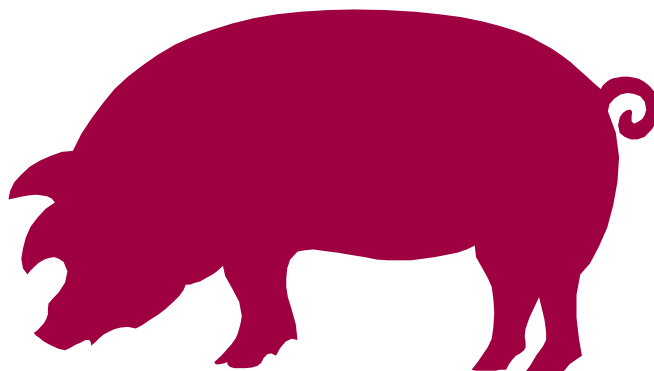
I have a son that must be seen by doctors at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio. Can I travel with him and will the Army pay?

By SFC TOMMY EDWARDS

Yes, in those cases where the family member is under 18, and the physician provided an official statement documenting the need for a non-medical attendant. If the family member is over eighteen, then the attending physician must provide a statement that the patient's medical condition prevents them from driving or utilizing the Air Evac System therefore a non-medical attendant is required. Only the Active Duty Soldier is authorized to travel as a non-medical attendant for family members. This will authorize funding for the sponsor to travel to and from the treatment facility. If the family member is over 18 and the physician has determined that a non-medical attendant is not required, then travel funding will not be provided. If the sponsor feels he/she still needs to accompany the family member, the sponsor can make one of the following choices:

- a. Travel to San Antonio at own expense.
- b. Request that the unit of assignment fund the TDY from unit operating funds.
- c. Request that the care be provided from a physician in the local or surrounding area.

Per the Resource Management office at BJACH, there are no new initiatives to fund TDY travel for family members. Any questions can be directed to SFC Edwards @ 531-2100 or the Resource Management Office BJACH @ 531-3072.



I have a report date to Germany and I have an EFMP child. What is taking so long to get my orders?

By SFC JAMES JACKS

The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is a program designed to assist family members who have either a medical or educational problem. The EFMP is also designed to assist soldiers that will be getting orders to PCS. The program is designed to ensure that soldiers are not PCS'd to a location that does not have a facility to assist their exception family member (EFM). Soldiers and commanders should be aware that there are some problem areas that can slow down the orders process. To ensure soldiers get their orders in a timely manner they must be proactive in the following areas:

- a. Soldiers should not wait until the last minute to enroll family members in EFMP.
- b. Once a soldier gets a levy notification they should attend the levy briefing immediately.
- c. EFMs will need to be seen by Mrs. Burford (531-3046) at the Hospital to update their enrollment in the EFMP, prior to the overseas screening and prior to levy section issuing orders; soldiers do not have to wait until the briefing to do this.

Soldiers and Commanders need to understand that the levy section can't request family travel or cut orders if the EFMP paperwork has not been returned to the levy section from the hospital. This means that a soldier's request for family travel will not get processed which in turn means the soldier will not get orders. Also, all the EFMP information should be in the soldier's 201 file, if the soldier has done the correct paperwork. There are people on post to help the soldier with these issues, Mrs. Burford, EFMP Counselor at BJACH, and your PAC/S-1. Again, the soldier should be proactive in getting this done. If you, as the soldier's leader are not sure of what to do, look in AR 608-75, it outlines and provides guidance on the EFM Program, or call Ms. Bailey, Installation Exceptional Family Member Program Manager at Army Community Service, 531-6922 for assistance.

Duty rosters - Can the 1SG exempt me from duty during the week, based on my duties, and require me to pull the weekend duty? Is the 1SG required to produce the Form 6 if requested by a soldier? Are there privacy issues with posting it on the bulletin board?

By SFC WARD MILLER

Yes to the first question. Commanders are authorized to establish methods and procedures that will best suit the needs of their organization. However, those methods and procedures must comply with the spirit and intent of AR 220-45. Separate numbering system sequences MAY be established. Entries on the duty roster for weekend and holiday duty, as well as entries for weekdays, will be posted on the same roster.

The 1SG must produce the DA Form 6 for anyone who wishes to review it. It's a good opportunity to train the requestor in the proper use of a DA Form 6.

The duty roster (DA Form 6) is posted only for those days on which a detail is selected. There are no Privacy Act issues associated with putting the information on the unit bulletin board.

***** Free Reports for Commanders *****

As you know, the FPIG conducts a monthly Quick-Look inspection of various quality of life and soldier issues. The table below is a listing of the last year's inspections. They cover several areas of interest to you and your subordinates. Contact the FPIG at 531-2100/7878 and we'll be happy to forward a copy to you via e-mail or hard copy distribution.

Jun 99:	Clearing Quarters
Jul 99:	Reup for Education Option
Aug 99:	Sponsorship
Sep 99:	Barracks & Facilities Maint
Oct 99:	Loan Institutions
Nov 99:	Magnolia House
Jan 00:	SGTs Time TNG
Feb 00:	Jump Pay
Mar 00:	Maint Services/AOAP
Apr 00:	Special Population PT
May 00:	BOSS Program